relating to customs and central excise was pending on that date with the Customs & Central Excise Settlement Commission, as it has been set up recently.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the amount, as this is to be decided by the Settlement Commission on finalisation of the cases. The number of cases pending for more than 3 years, 5 years and 10 years are 785, 319 and 31 respectively.

Privatisation of maintenance of National Highways

*29. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to offer the maintenance of National Highways to private parties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry is planning to work out contract documents for implementing maintenance by private contract scheme;

(d) if so, the highlights of the contract documents;

(e) the details of arrangement for supervision, monitoring and evaluation by Government; and

(f) when and where the pilot project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is to bring in savings in maintenance cost.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Details/modalities have not been finalised.

Demand for Telephones

*30. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's current teledensity is 2.4 telephones per 100 population;

(b) if so, what is the present demand for telephones and likely demand, in millions, by 2005 as well as by 2010;